SEGMENTAL GRAVITY RETAINING WALLS (9-21-10)

1.0 GENERAL

A. Description

A segmental gravity retaining wall consists of segmental retaining wall (SRW) units with an aggregate footing and is typically constructed in accordance with a standard segmental gravity retaining wall drawing (Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03). Design and construct segmental gravity retaining walls based on actual elevations and dimensions in accordance with the contract and accepted submittals. For this provision, "block wall" refers to a segmental gravity retaining wall and "blocks" refer to SRW units.

B. Standard Block Walls

A standard block wall is defined as a segmental gravity retaining wall constructed in accordance with a standard segmental gravity retaining wall drawing. SRW units for standard block walls are approved for either 2 or 4 ft (0.6 or 1.2 m) maximum design heights where the design height is as shown on the plans. Obtain the list of approved SRW Units with maximum design heights from:
www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/geotech/seggravwalls

2.0 SUBMITTALS

A. Block Wall Construction Submittal

The plans typically show a plan view, typical sections, details, notes and an elevation or profile view (wall envelope) for each block wall. Before beginning block wall design or construction, survey existing ground elevations at the wall face and other elevations in the vicinity of block walls as needed. Based on these elevations, finished grades and actual block wall dimensions and details, submit wall envelopes for review and acceptance. Use the accepted wall envelopes for design and construction.

B. Block Wall Design Submittal

If the plans do not include a standard segmental gravity retaining wall drawing, submit 11 hard copies of working drawings and 3 hard copies of design calculations and an electronic copy (PDF on CD or DVD) of each for the block wall design submittal. Provide the submittal at least 30 calendar days before beginning block wall construction. Do not begin block wall construction until the design submittal is accepted.

Design block walls in accordance with the plans and Article 11.11 of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* unless otherwise required. Also, design block walls to meet minimum clearances and maximum wall batter shown on the plans. Do not locate blocks or footings beyond right-of-way or easement lines.

Use no. 57 stone for aggregate footings beneath blocks. Use 10 inch (250 mm) thick footings that are continuous at steps and extend a minimum of 6" (150 mm) in front of and 9" (225 mm) behind the bottom row of blocks. Unless required otherwise on the plans, embed bottom of footings a minimum of 18" (450 mm) below where finished grade intersects the front face of block walls. When a note on plans requires a drain pipe, use a 4" (100 mm) dia. continuous perforated pipe in the no. 57 stone at the back of footings.

Fill block core spaces with no. 57 stone, if applicable. Assume a unit weight of 100 pcf (15.7 kN/m^3) for stone. Also, fill between and behind blocks with no. 57 stone for a horizontal distance of at least 12" (300 mm). Place separation fabric between no. 57 stone and backfill or natural ground. Also, place separation fabric between no. 57 stone and overlying fill or pavement section with the exception of when concrete pavement is placed directly on the stone.

Use SRW cap units at top of walls. Step top of walls as shown on the plans and double stack SRW cap units at steps such that cap blocks are continuous at steps. Attach cap blocks with adhesive and extend top of walls a minimum of 4" (100 mm) above where finished grade intersects the back of block walls. When single faced precast concrete barriers are required in front of block walls, fill between barriers and wall faces with no. 57 stone.

Submit working drawings and design calculations for review and acceptance in accordance with Article 105-2 of the *Standard Specifications*. Submit working drawings showing plan views, wall profiles with required resistances, typical sections, separation fabric locations and details of footings, blocks, etc. If necessary, include details on working drawings for obstructions extending through walls. Submit design calculations for each wall section with different surcharge loads, geometry or material parameters. When using a software program for design, provide a hand calculation verifying the analysis of the tallest wall section. Have block walls designed, detailed and sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in North Carolina.

3.0 MATERIALS

A. Segmental Retaining Wall (SRW) Units

Provide certifications in accordance with Article 106-3 of the *Standard Specifications*. Provide Type 1 Certified Mill Test Reports or Type 4 Certified Test Reports for all block properties with the exception of durability. When a note on plans requires freeze-thaw durable blocks, provide Type 2 Typical Certified Mill Test Reports or Type 5 Typical Certified Test Reports for durability.

Do not mix blocks from different vendors on the same block wall. Use approved SRW units for standard block walls. For details and dimensions of approved SRW units, see the website shown elsewhere in this provision.

Unless required otherwise on the plans, provide blocks with a minimum depth (front face to back face) of 12" (300 mm), a vertical straight face and a concrete gray color

with no tints, dyes or pigments. Before beginning block production, obtain approval of sample blocks of the size, type, face and color proposed for the project.

Load, transport, unload and store blocks such that they are kept clean and free of damage. Damaged blocks with excessive discoloration, chips or cracks as determined by the Engineer will be rejected. Label each pallet of blocks with the information listed in Article 1077-13 of the *Standard Specifications*. Do not transport blocks away from the casting yard until the concrete strength reaches 4000 psi (27.6 MPa) and a period of at least 5 days elapses after casting unless otherwise approved.

Use blocks meeting the requirements of Section 1040 of the *Standard Specifications* and ASTM C1372 with the exception of absorption, compressive strength, durability and unit height requirements. Test blocks in accordance with ASTM C140 with the exception of the number of units in a lot. For testing blocks, a lot is defined as 5000 units or a single day's production, whichever is less, and 6 blocks are required per lot.

Provide blocks with a maximum absorption of 5%. For standard block walls, provide blocks with a unit height within 1/16 inch (2 mm) of the dimension for the approved SRW unit. For all other block walls, provide blocks with a unit height within 1/16 inch (2 mm) of the dimension shown in the accepted submittals.

A minimum compressive strength of 4000 psi (27.6 MPa) at 28 days is required for blocks with the exception of freeze-thaw durable blocks. When a note on plans requires freeze-thaw durable blocks, a minimum compressive strength of 5500 psi (37.9 MPa) at 28 days is required.

Test freeze-thaw durable blocks in accordance with ASTM C1262. Test specimens in water. Freeze-thaw durable blocks are acceptable if the weight loss of each of 4 of the 5 specimens after 150 cycles does not exceed 1% of its initial weight.

B. SRW Cap Units

Use cap blocks meeting the requirements of the SRW units above with the exception of the minimum block depth. Use cap blocks with a minimum depth (front face to back face) of 8" (200 mm).

C. No. 57 Stone

Use standard size no. 57 stone meeting the requirements of Class VI Select Material in accordance with Section 1016 of the *Standard Specifications*.

D. Wall Drainage Systems

Wall drainage systems consist of perforated polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic pipes and outlet components. Use pipe and outlet materials meeting the requirements of subsurface drainage materials in accordance with Section 1044 of the *Standard Specifications*.

E. Separation Fabrics

Use separation fabrics meeting the requirements of Type 2 Engineering Fabric in accordance with Section 1056 of the *Standard Specifications*.

F. Adhesive

Provide adhesive in accordance with the block vendor's recommendations. Store adhesive in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

G. Joint Materials

Use joint materials in accordance with Section 1028 of the *Standard Specifications*.

4.0 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Control drainage during construction in the vicinity of block walls. Direct run off away from block walls, no. 57 stone and backfill. Contain and maintain stone and backfill and protect material from erosion.

Perform all necessary clearing and grubbing in accordance with Section 200 of the *Standard Specifications*. Excavate as necessary for block walls in accordance with the plans and accepted submittals. Notify the Engineer when foundation excavation is complete. Do not place no. 57 stone for footings until obtaining approval of the excavation depth and foundation material. If a drain pipe is required, construct wall drainage systems as shown on the plans and accepted submittals and in accordance with Section 815 of the *Standard Specifications*. Provide drain pipes with positive drainage towards outlets. Compact no. 57 stone with a vibratory compactor to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

Place blocks with no negative wall batter (wall face leaning forward) such that the final position is as shown on the plans and accepted submittals. Stagger vertical block joints to create a running bond when possible unless shown otherwise on the plans and accepted submittals. Place blocks with a maximum joint width of 1/2 inch (13 mm). Construct block walls with a horizontal tolerance of 3/4 inch (19 mm) when measured with a 10 ft (3 m) straight edge and a vertical tolerance within 2 degrees of the wall batter shown on the plans and accepted submittals.

Place no. 57 stone between and behind blocks in 8 to 10 inch (200 to 250 mm) thick lifts. Compact stone with hand operated compaction equipment. Overlap separation fabric a minimum of 18" (450 mm) at seams. Backfill for wall construction behind no. 57 stone in accordance with Article 410-8 of the *Standard Specifications*.

Place cap blocks as shown on the plans and accepted submittals. Set cap blocks with a 1/2 to 1-1/2 inch (13 to 38 mm) overhang. Do not install cap blocks if the surface to receive caps is wet or frozen or the air temperature measured at the wall in the shade away from artificial heat is below 40°F (4°C). Before applying adhesive, clean the surface the caps will adhere to and ensure it is dry and free of oil, grease, dust and debris. Attach cap blocks using adhesive in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Seal joints above and behind block walls between blocks and ditches with joint sealer.

5.0 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls will be measured and paid for in square feet (meters). Block walls will be measured as the exposed face area with the wall height equal to the difference between the top and bottom of wall elevation. The top of wall elevation is defined as the top of cap blocks. The bottom of wall elevation is as shown on the plans and no payment will be made for portions of block walls below bottom of wall elevations.

The contract unit price for *Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls* will be full compensation for providing design, submittals, labor, tools, equipment and block wall materials, excavating, backfilling, hauling and removing excavated materials and providing footings, blocks, no. 57 stone, wall drainage systems, fabrics, cap blocks and any incidentals necessary to design and construct block walls in accordance with this provision.

The contract unit price for *Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls* does not include the cost for fences, handrails, ditches, guardrail and barriers associated with block walls as payment for these items will be made elsewhere in the contract.

Payment will be made under:

Pay Item	**Pay Unit**
Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls	Square Foot (Meter)